

AND

ANSWER

TO

SOME QUERIES, &c. RELATIVE TO THE UNION:

IN A

CONFERENCE

BETWIXT

A COFFEEMASTER,

AND

A COUNTRY-FARMER,

Printed in the Year 1786.

AN

ANSWER

To the QUERIES Relative to the UNION, &c.

Coff. Mast. Welcome to Town, my good old Friend.--
how goes all in the Countrey?

Count. Far. Pretty sober -- we are amus'd about that Union, become long since our Table talk.

Coff. Mast. Pray, how are ye generally affected as to that Matter?

Count. Far. For my self, whatever my scruples be, I think it my duty to submit to what the Parliament shall determine: Others appear for or against it, as they are influenc'd; You know, neither I or my fellows can see into State Designs, but throu' Prospectives made us by others, which often give us a false view. Pamphlets flow in upon us, which furnish prejudices abundance against the Union: We have just now got one Entitled, *some Queries, &c.* which seem unanswerable.

Coff. Mast. I have seen it -- his design is to present at one view all that may render the Union odious; But Men of Sense may easily find a Salve for all his Sores,

Count. Far. Say you so! * I'm sure I know Men that don't reckon 'emselfes Fools, sit mighty uneasy with 'em: I shou'd be glad to hear any Man talk Sense on the head.

Coff. Mast. You'r mighty short, Man! no ill said and much less design'd: It's not my part to dip into Reasons of State; but, if you please, I'll tell ye what I hear Men of good parts, that frequent here, say upon the Matter.

Count Far. You'l favour me extremly.



Coff

Coff. Mast. Take the Paper then and propose the ~~Union~~ from your self.

Count Far. With all my heart Here is the First, Whether or not it be in the Power of the Parliament, or the Legislative Power whatever to dispose of or resign the Sovereignty, Independance, National Rights, Freedom & Liberties of the Nation, without the consent of every Freeborn Scotsman; and suppose they did, if it be obligatory upon Posterity?

Coff. Mast. They tell us, every Family before the Erection of Civil Government, was independent and Sovereign; The Good-Man of the House was then as much King by his own Fire side, as a Monarch is now in his Throne: When several such Families incorporated together to make up a Common-Wealth, I question if the master of the Family behov'd to crave the consent, of, not only Wife and Children, but likewise his Servants: In such a Case, he only disposes of his own governing Power, and Devolves it upon the Civil Sovereign: And its plain, the Liberties and Freedom of the Members of each Family are not diminish'd, but a great deal increas'd: They now enjoy all the Rights that belong to the new erected Common-Wealth; and have a much greater and more honourable Power to protect'em; And that all their descendants, to infinite Generations, must be subject to the same Government, is past all doubt. The Case is the same with us when we unite with *England*; for Nations are great Families, as Families were petty Common-Wealths in the state of Nature; Thus all *Scotsmen* after an Union will enjoy the National Rights, Freedom and Liberties of *Great Britain*; be govern'd by the Sovereign and Parliament of *Britain*; and instead of *Free Scots*, become *Free British*; and is not every private *Scotsman's* freedom hereby enlarg'd to a degree?

Count Far. That's unquestionable; since we become under one Government with *England*; by an Union: Were it indeed on the account of any pretended Claim of Superiority, he's not a true
Scots-

Scots man that wou'd not venture Craig and Gizard, rather than part with the Crown on such dishonourable Terms.

Coff, Mast. That puts me in Mind of the Popular prejudice against the Union: Their great Out-cry is; *Misken Old England, they have a Design on our Crown, to carry it up to London, and so enslave us:* Its plain, the *English* have no use for our Crown, nor will they desire it; They can't Demand it, as a Mark of Subjection; since we are no more subjected to them by an Union, than they to us, but unite with 'em, and have the same Rights and Priviledges.

Count, Far. I think so; And thus the Scarecrow, that frights my Neighbours from the Union, is a meer delusion; And the Crown will still remain in the Castle amongst other Monuments of our Antiquity, since ther's no reason to carry 'em elsewhere.

Quer. 2 Whether or not to go into such an Union as the Articles infer, does not involve the Nation in perjury; Seeing the National Covenant obliges this Nation to maintain the Authority of Parliaments?

Coff, Mast. I've often heard that Oaths bound only the person of the Swearer, and that the Obligation arising from 'em can no more descend to Posterity, than the Conscience of the Swearer can: if therefore there be any in Parliament, that took that Oath, let 'em dissent from the Union, and save their conscience; As for others, it's needless to ask if they break an Oath which cannot bind 'em.

Count, Far. That's clear; for, tho' *Adam* had Sworn a thousand things for himself and Posterity, I'm not concern'd about it

Quer. 3. Whether or not the Sacramental Test precludes all *Presbyterians*, after the Constitution of the Parliament of Great Britain, and that in Scotland, as well as in England.

Coff, Mast. It's certain, no *English* Law can bind in Scotland after the union, more than *Scotish* Laws can bind in England,

till

till either be over enacted in the *British* Parliament; Nor can the Sacramental Test, as now conceived, ever be ratified in the *British* Parliament; provided Presbytery be Establish'd in this part of the *British* Kingdom, by an Article of the Union, without a Violation of the Treaty, and consequently a Dissolution of the Government that is built upon it.

Count, Far. That seems evident, for whatever Laws the master of a Familie rul'd by, can't oblige the other Families after they have all entred into a Common-wealth.

Quer. 4. Whether or not the doing any thing against the Claim of Right, does not infer the crime of high Treason, which this Union does not only enervate, but is everlive &c.

Coff. Mast. The Claim of Right is only certain conditions in the matter of Government which the Sovereign of *Scotland*, at receiving the Crown, obliges himself to the Parliament of *Scotland* to Perform; who can complain if they part with their own Right? What the *Parl. or Conv. of States*, by Declaration enforce, mayn't the Parliament by a contrair one enervat?

Count, Far. It's true, And I've frequently seen people hang for Treason; but never heard of the Parliament's being arraign'd before.

Quer. 5. Whether or not the going into such an incorporate Union, will not infallibly involve our Nation in confusion, and be follow'd with such consequences, as every honest man trembles to think of: seeing it is said that above 80. in Parliament are influenced and interested by Court dependencies &c. or the like selfish ends. And the whole body of the Nation, who is against it, are disinterested; Particularly the National Church and all others except the Jacobites.

Coff. Mast. There was ne'er any great alteration, though never so much to the better, but met with Difficulties at the beginning: What Rables, confusions and Topsy-turvys attend'd our Reformation? Was it therefore to be let alone, till the whole Body of the Nation consented to it? It's surprissing to see the censorious World / The Courtiers in former attempts for

an Union, were blam'd for it's Miscarriage, as preferring their privat Design to the publick Good. Now they're lash'd for doing their utmost to make us happy in concluding it. Where's the hazard that the publick good and private Interest go hand in hand, what e'er the Author talks of disinterestedness I believe him like other men, and wou'd serve God but coldly were it not for the Hopes of Heaven: Right or wrong, the Court must suffer by these who repine, they are not Favorites 'emselves: The National Church don't appear against the Union, if they ha'nt now made the Author their Spokes man; As for the *Jacobites*, you'll find 'em generally, both in *England* and here, oppose it might and main; and the Author does 'em a favour they don't desire in vouching 'em it's friends.

Count, Far. All *Jacobites* indeed I meet with are at their last prayers, if the Union succeed; And not without reason, since that Pretender, The center of their hopes, is excluded by an Article of it.

Quer, 6. Whether or not it was not *impar congresses* when the Treaters for *England*, were Men of the highest quality, and eminent for wisdom, learning and Policy: And yielding the Treaters from *Scotland* were of equal sufficiencies and integrity; Yet considering that the place of Treaty was *London*, where the former had the advantage of all the wits in *England* beside their own, and the latter had only a few well meaning but less discerning Men. Is it not incontestable, that the latter was at a vast disadvantage, seing *plus vident oculi quam oculus*, as appears by the Debates that have already been in Parliament, and will much more in the progreß.

Coff. Mass. Some of our Treaters may enter the lists with the greatest wits in *England*. Others, tho not very expert in State Affairs, yet weren't unacquaint with the circumstances of the Nation: Thus a profound Skill in politicks; and knowledge in Business was agreeably temper'd: Had they been all plodding Politicians, we might have had good Schemes props'd, but probably no

nothing effected; each man sticking up for his own Opinion : And for *England*, in like manner, two or three leading men did all. I can't see why the advantage, as to the place of treaty, shou'd be so much reckon'd up to the *English* account. Certainly all Scots men capable to give advice (the Author of these *Queries* if he had pleas'd) might have recommended their thoughts in a Letter, at least, if they cou'd not be present in person.

Count, Far, That's sure ; And had my Head been as capable as my Heart was willing, I shou'd not grudg'd a piece of Money upon the occasion.

Quer. 4. WHETHER or not it be not impossible that the Church or any other interfering and reserved interest, can have any Security for the performance of conditions; Seeing a *British* Parliament can order all things at pleasure, having both the Legislative and executive power in their hand

Coff. Mast I've heard the greatest Sticklers for *Presbytery* own, the wit of man can't invent a better security for't, than that it be made an Article of the Union ; For all these are so many fundamentals on which the Government of *Britain* is built, and when any one of 'em is broke, the whole Fabrick must fall to the Ground , The Parliament of *Britain* will have no power but what is confer'd upon it by the respective Parliaments of *Scotland* and *England* : It can't therefore intermeddle with the Articles of Union, since these rights and a power about 'em is expressly reserv'd : Whene'er then the Sovereign Power of Great *Britain* inonvats any thing contain'd in the Articles (except as to things the regulation whereof is expressly refer'd to it's determinations) the respective persons, either in South or North *Britain*, whose rights are encroach'd upon, may justly take up Arms and vindicate them by open force, if there be no other way of redress; for a Sovereign, usurping a Power that's not devolved upon him Divests himself of the Character, and becomes an Enemy.

Count.

Count. Far. Softly pray.--May 'nt the Parliament of *Britain* alter it's Fundamentals with as good reason, as that of *Scotland* do's their's?

Coff. Mast. Hark ye! take notice---I own, cou'd we produce Authentick Records of certain Conditions of Government, mutually stipulated by our Forefathers, when they parted with their Family Sovereignities, and constitute our civil Government, the Case were parallel: But otherwise it is not; For when once a Commonwealth is erected, the Sovereign can't, in Propriety of Speech, be said to treat with the Subjects; For, as Sovereign, he acts in the Person of the People, represents 'em; And consequently can't make a paction with 'em as a different Parry: Whatever therefore, the Sovereign Power once establishes, promises or declares, he will or ought to do in the manner of Government, can't be binding upon i' self, but by a further Declaration may be alter'd at pleasure; For I've heard the Lawyers say, *nemo sibi legem dicere potest*: And don't we see these things, which improperly pass for Fundamentals, like Almanacks, run out of date; We had it declar'd Fundamental, to have Bishops in Parliament: Our *Claim of Right* now declares the contrary; And who knows how soon another Trump Card may turn up, if it be not prevented by some such sure Establishment, as the Ground-Work of the Union.

Count. Far. I hear ye, and wish our present Church may consider how fickle a standing they now have, and how well it may be fixt by an Union,

Quer. 8. WHETHER or not, will it not be a grinding the Face of the poor? Nay, will it not bring this Nation to utter Desolation, to impose upon it, after 7 Years the Excise upon Salt, &c.

Coff. Mast. One great design the *English* have in pushing the Union, is to make us Rich, that we may be able to spare something towards the support of the Common Cause: And to keep us Poor, were an odd way of compassing that end; Since we have

(9)
have seven Years Ease from these Impositions, it's hop'd, ere that time expire, we will find our selves so much Gainers by the Union; that instead of complaining of these Burthens, we will bless our selves in the many advantages we reap by it.

Count. Far. 'tis reasonable to expect so, and I hope from a Tenant of 100 *Merks* to become a rich *Farmer* of a 100 *l*: by the improvements used in *England*, and the encrease of the value of things from the Flourishing of Trade; And then I shan't think a penny more for Salt ill spent.

Quer. 9. WHETHER or not 'tis to take the Bread of the poor Tradesmen in *Edinburgh* out of their mouths, and to make our Metropolis ruinous, to remove the Parliament and fill the City with the product of all *English* Manufactures to the ruin of our's.

Coff. Mast. The resort of strangers by the encrease of Trade and Shipping, the natural consequences of the union, will abundantly make amends for the want of the Parliament (tho nothing hinders but the Parl. of *Britain*, when the Queen pleases, may Sit here too) in *Edinb.* The commodious situation of *Leith* Harbour is capable to make this City one of the finest marts in *Europe*; And Tradesmen of all sorts will certainly find their accounts encrease by the Union: For our Manufacturies, none tolerably acquaint with the Nation, but knows they'r all, to our disgrace, mostly ruin'd; And the only probable way to recover 'em from that Decay and mismanagement is by an union with *England*; They'r old practioners, and will help us to good measures in improving every Subject of Trade to the best advantage.

Count. Far. I believe it, and expect my Wool shan't lye so long upon my hands as it does at present.

Quer. 10. WHETHER or not is it not rationally to be suppos'd seeing we have been so much under the influence of *England* since the two Kingdoms were united under one Sovereign; that all our Officers of State were of their nomination

C

tion, will their influence reach much further, even to a Collect-
or in all the Sea port Towns in *Scotland*; When in the Event
of an incorporate Union they have all places High and low
at their pleasure. And if a Scots man obtain any thing to him-
self from the Sovereign of *Great Britain* it can only be by the
mediation of the *English*.

Coff. Mast 'Tas been our misfortune since the Union of the
Crowns to be manag'd by an *English* influence; While *Eng-
land* and we continue separate Kingdoms, they keep a jealous
Eye over us, lest we grow rich and powerful and become capa-
ble to cope with 'em: But when by an intire, Union, Nation-
al Distinctions and interfering Jurisdiction are done away, the
Riches or strength any part of the Kingdom of *Great Britain*
acquire, makes an addition to the wealth and power of the
whole; 'Tis a little odd, the Author shou'd envy the *English*
an access to our petty places of Trust, when the highest Posts
in the *British* Government will be patent to Scots men: Nor
can I imagine why he supposes all favours done Scots men
must flow in an *English* channel: Shall the Distinction still
be kept up after we are become one? Who is to find fault
with the Sovereign's advancing Scots-men, not the *English*
Government, for they have none after the Union but what is
as much our own.

Count. Far. True.--I thought indeed that *Querie* might
been spar'd.

Quer. II. WHETHER or not the freedom of Trade which
the *Affrican* company has establish'd to them by Law, be not of
more value, than all that can accresce to *Scotland* by this incor-
porating Union, if rightly manag'd.

Coff. Mast. If we believe experience, that company has gain'd
us nothing but loss and disappointment; And I fancy you'll find
the proprietars generally willing to drop the privileges, and
dissolve the Company, provided they be reimburs'd of what they'r
out of Pocket; these possible advantages are now started only to
put

put off a more certain and publick good, tending not only to the advance of this country in all its capacities, but to the universal happiness of *Britain* by an Union, against which the priviledges of that Company wou'd form an unanswerable Argument.

Count. Far. I think after all we need not be very loath to part with that immunity and freedom of Trade, which in our present circumstances, we can make no advantages by.

Quer. 12. WHETHER or not one years free Trade with foreign Nations, against whom the *English* have declar'd or may declare War, wou'd not advance the riches of the Nation, more than seven Years Trade offer'd by this Incorporating Union.

Coff. Mass. If the Author mean we shou'd set up a Monarch of our own, he says something to purpose; Tho' I can't swear he has calculate the advantage that way justly, to be more than 7 to one, by an union: But while we are under one Head with *England*, 'tis hardly supposable we'll be allow'd to carry on a Trade with *England's* Enemies: And don't we find by dear bought Experience, that *English* Councils still influence our Government, and I can't help believing that, though our Parliament had the power of declaring War, *England* wou'd still hook us in, some way or other.

Count. Far. I make no doubt--- we are too generous to see our Neighbours of *England* embark'd in a troublesome War, and let 'em weather it out, without lending 'em our Assistance.

Quer. 13. WHETHER or not, the Parliament can be answerable to GOD, Her Majesty, or the Noble patriots of this and the Neighbour Nation (who certainly design'd, as our Treators did, the Security of both Kingdoms, both in their Civil and Religious concerns, against *Papery* or Arbitrary power) to carry on an Incorporating Union, which at this time till the Nation gets further Light, may beget a Schism and convulsion both in Church and State, that may be attended with fatall consequences: And which certainly will be unacceptable to her Majesty and those in the Government of *England*, who design'd by the Union an inviolable Friendship betwixt the two Kingdoms, and instead of this will create greater enmity than ever, till the Nation be further enlighten'd and disposed for the Union.

Coff. Mass. A strang Query! Will the Concluding an Union be unacceptable-

acceptable to Her Majesty, who so passionately recommends it in Her Letter? Will the carrying on an Union displease Her, since She concurs in every Step of it? I don't take his meaning, when he asks, How the Parliament can be answerable to Her Majesty who is the most essential Constituent of it Herself, and must give the finishing stroke before any thing is done; He has had an ill set frame of Government in his fancy: I say no more. As to the terrible consequences of an Union he threatens us with, we are not to believe his Prophecies without a Miracle to confirm 'em; If some people are so blinded still, not to see the Interest of the Nation by an Union, 'tis owing mostly, I imagine, to the mists which disaffected people raise before their Eyes, witness the Author with his *Queries*. But, that *Union* should beget Schism and Division, is somewhat odd. We often indeed see the Patient fall out into a pettish humour against the Physician, that designs his cure, especially, if he has got bad impressions of him beforehand; But when he finds himself perfectly recover'd, he begins to bliss the Author of his Health. Thus it is, I hope, with our Nation; When the fit of the Spleen, that seems to have taken 'em, is over; They'll gratefully remember these worthy Patriots, who exert 'emselfes with such Vigour to recover their Country from ruine, and set it in a rising Posture.

Count, Far. I was one of these unhappy disaffected People my self, and carry'd away with the popular fouch, but now am happily reclaim'd by your Assistance. As for the 14 *Query*, proposing a time to consider upon the *Union*, it does not much move me, for I'm truly perswaded, these Gentlemen that make the Overture, only intend to defeat the design entirely, spread abroad more Firebrands, and inflame the People's minds against it--- But I must be going--- Hey! Boy, get me a Dish of Coffee--- Adieu; I humbly thank you for the trouble you've taken, and I cou'd wish you to put what you've said in print, for the good of my neighbours and others, especially the Author of the *Queries*, who seems earnestly desirous to have 'em satisfi'd.

Coff. Mast. I don't care much for troubling the Press, 'tis so throng'd already; but at your request I'll make a tryal --- Your Humble Servant.

F I N I S.



ry
nt
it
as
he
ve
d-
ly,
es,
m
all
e-
ds
us
to
ts,
ne,
nd
our
he
lea
ad
I
ly
hat
he
d
al-